

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of May 15, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-10 and 15-24 are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-4, 11, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Pattee (US 6,615,428).

Claims 5-8 and 15-17 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Pattee.

Claims 10 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Freeman (US 5,960,054) in view of Pattee.

Claims 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102.

**The Claims Distinguish Patentably
Over the References of Record**

Claim 5, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Claims 6 and 3 depend from claim 5. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claims 3, 5, and 6** are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 7, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Claim 8 depends from claim 7. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claims 7 and 8** are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 calls for a first scanner and a second scanner. Moreover, claim 10 calls for an intermediate support disposed between the first and second scanners. The intermediate support finds antecedent basis in support 118 of the specification and drawings. This intermediate support is engaged by the intermediate pallet adjacent its tip when it is extended from the base through the first scanner.

Neither Freeman nor Pattee disclose an intermediate support between two scanners, which support supports the intermediate pallet. Rather, in both Freeman and Pattee, the pallet(s) are cantilevered from the base. There is no suggestion of placing an intermediate support between two scanners in order to support the intermediate pallet when it is extended.

Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 10 and claims 2, 4, 9 and 22** dependent therefrom distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

Claim 15, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form. Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claims 15-17** are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to include a portion of the subject matter of claim 5. Accordingly, it is submitted that **claim 18 and claims 19-21, 23, and 24** dependent therefrom distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

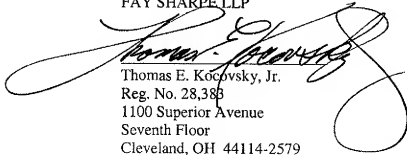
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 2-10 and 15-24 are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all pending claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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